

## **Appendix E**

National Register Nomination Form  
7NC-B-11

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name J.R. Weldin Plantation Archaeological Site

other names/site number 7NC-B-11, N-9453, Chestnut Hill

2. Location

street & number Southeastern intersection of Weldin and Foulk Roads ☐ not for publication

city or town Wilmington ☒ vicinity

state Delaware code DE county New Castle code 003 zip code 19803

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☐ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☐ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.  
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the  
National Register.  
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the  
National Register.

☐ removed from the National  
Register.

☐ other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**5. Classification****Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)  
☐ district  
☒ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use****Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: processing

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural outbuilding

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

**7. Description****Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: granitic

walls

roof

other

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☒ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHEOLOGY: HISTORIC - NON-ABORIGINAL

AGRICULTURE

ECONOMICS

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

### Period of Significance

1710 - 1930

### Significant Dates

1785

1862

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

Euro-American

### Architect/Builder

N/A

## Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary location of additional data

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

J. R. Weldin Plantation Archaeological Site  
Name of Property

New Castle County, Delaware  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 1.75 acres

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	8
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4	5	3	5	2	0
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4	4	0	3	2	5	0
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3 

1	8
---	---

4	5	3	6	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	4	0	3	3	6	0
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2 

1	8
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4	5	3	5	0	0
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4	4	0	3	3	5	0
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4 

1	8
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4	5	3	6	2	0
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4	4	0	3	2	6	0
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☐ See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kevin J. Simons/Archaeologist and Barbara J. Shaffer/Archaeologist

organization McCormick, Taylor & Associates, Inc. date February 12, 2001

street & number 75 Shannon Road telephone 717-540-6040

city or town Harrisburg state PA zip code 17112

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

### Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

### J. R. Weldin Plantation Archaeological Site

New Castle County, Delaware

#### Description

The site is located on an upland setting on the Piedmont Plateau Physiographic Province. The mapped soils are Talleyville silt loam, with 2-5% slopes, moderately eroded (TaB2), a well drained soil (Mathews and Lavoie 1970).

This site is a historic farmstead that may date to the early eighteenth century and was occupied until the mid-twentieth century. The site was identified previously and is discussed in greater detail in *Archeological Investigations of the Proposed Dualization of Route 141 (Centre Road), From Route 100 (Montchanin Road) to U.S. Route 202 (Concord Pike), New Castle County, Delaware*, Thunderbird Archeological Associates, Inc., 1989.

The site may date to the 1710s, and so would have been occupied throughout each of the periods described in the *Management Plan for Delaware's Historic Archaeological Resources*. During the Exploration and Frontier Settlement Period, the *Management Plan* indicates that dispersed English farmsteads are located along the major creeks. Information relating to domestic economy, manufacturing and trade, landscape interaction, and social group identity, behavior, and interactions might be obtainable from excavations at this site.

The Intensified and Durable Occupation Period continues to provide a context for domestic economy for farmsteads that may have slaves or indentured servants. The evolution of the site throughout the Transformation from Colony to State, Industrialization and Capitalization, and Urbanization and Suburbanization Periods may allow a unique opportunity to compare the occupation of one site during the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries. The property was owner occupied at various times throughout its history and tenant occupied during other times. Comparison of different occupations, with presumed differences in economic status, may provide important data concerning socio-economic patterns throughout the history of this site.

This site was identified by TAA in 1985 during Phase I Archaeological Survey testing for the proposed Dualization of Rt. 141 (Centre Road), from Route 100 (Montchanin Road) to U.S. Route 202 (Concord Pike), New Castle County, Delaware. Foundations were visible above the ground during a surface reconnaissance; therefore TAA conducted extended Phase I Archaeological Investigations. A total of 24 shovel test pits (STPs) and 31 test units (TUs) were excavated during the Phase I testing. Four individual structures and a barn/barnyard complex were identified. Structure A was interpreted as the main residence, Structure B was believed to be a detached dependency to the main residence, Structure C was believed to be an equipment shed, and no interpretation was made for Structure D. TAA recommended a Phase II archaeological evaluation if proposed construction would impact the site (Taylor et al. 1989).

Prior to the initiation of the archaeological testing, a vegetation survey was conducted. The vegetation survey inventoried the plant species that would have been naturally occurring, deliberately planted, or invasive due to human activities.

The site was tested with shovel test pits (STPs) measuring 1.9 feet in diameter placed at 20 foot intervals to define the boundaries of the site and identify artifact concentrations and potential features within the site. One hundred and seventy (170) STPs were excavated during the Evaluation Survey. After the excavation of the STPs, twenty 3x3 foot test units (TUs) were also excavated. The locations of the TUs were chosen based on the results of the STP excavation.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

### J. R. Weldin Plantation Archaeological Site

New Castle County, Delaware

### Statement of Significance

#### *History of the J. R. Weldin Property*

Originally part of the massive proprietary holding called "Rockland Manor," the 103 acre tract called "Chestnut Hill" was first surveyed in 1680. The exact location of the farm's initial dwelling is not known. However, a 1710 will mentions that the property included a house and cleared land (Taylor et al. 1989: 205). While there is no firm documentation for the location, size or nature of buildings on the property until 1796 (a fire blotter from this date describes a two-story stone house in the vicinity of the existing ruins), existing documents and archaeological evidence suggests that at least a portion of the existing ruins date to as early as 1740.

During much of the farm's eighteenth century occupation, northern Delaware agriculturalists, primarily English and Scotch-Irish settlers, participated in the region's first phase of commercial agriculture. Wheat, the primary crop grown during this period, was shipped to regional mill stations. From these it was sent, via New Castle and Philadelphia merchants, to the West Indies, southern Europe, and other North American Colonies.

Following years of extensive mono-crop farming, agricultural lands in the region became exhausted, and, by the late eighteenth century, local farming appears to have entered into a period of decline. Economic crises in the early years of the nineteenth century combined to force many farmers to abandon their lands and settle elsewhere. At this time, many small farm holdings were bought up by wealthy landowners. Workable farms were tenanted, while more marginal properties were left fallow or put in pasture for livestock (De Cunzo and Catts 1990; Munroe 1978).

These large scale economic events are reflected in the occupation history of Chestnut Hill. Following at least seventy-five years of owner-occupancy, in 1785, the farm was sold to an absentee landowner named John Dickinson, who resided in Philadelphia. Like roughly half of the farms in the state, Chestnut Hill was rented and farmed by a string of tenant farmers during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries (Siders et al. 1991).

Mid-nineteenth century occupations of Chestnut Hill coincided with what some authors have termed a "revolution" in Delaware agriculture. Beginning in the 1830's, local farmers started to incorporate crop-rotation, soil-fertilization, drainage measures, and modern farm machinery in their operations (De Cunzo and Garcia 1992; De Cunzo and Catts 1990). In tandem with this technological progress, the region had also shifted away from its economic dependence on exports to Philadelphia wholesalers. Following the completion of a number of transportation improvements (overland turnpikes in the early nineteenth century, the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal in 1829, and the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad in 1839), local farmers abandoned wheat as their staple crop and began to diversify their produce to include other grains, fruits, dairy products and other perishables. These goods were distributed to regional markets, particularly the emerging urban / industrial centers in Wilmington.

The records relating to Chestnut Hill show evidence of these changes. Census data from 1850 and 1860 indicate that the farm's last tenant, John Bradford, was farming a variety of crop types, including wheat, corn, oats, Irish potatoes and hay. Like other Piedmont farmers of the time, he focused on livestock raising, with some dairy farming as well. Though census data indicate that his dairy operations produced above average yields (Taylor et al. 1989: 208), the farm appears to have been in a state of decline when it was purchased by Jacob R. Weldin in 1862. Much of the arable land was fallow, and the farm's appearance is described by one of his descendants as, "impoverished...dilapidated" (Talley 1899: 178).

Within eight years, Weldin, who had previously split his time between his family's smaller farm adjacent to Chestnut Hill and shad fishing on the Delaware, affected considerable improvements to the farm. By 1870, he had brought a total of 224 acres under cultivation, and by 1881, he appears to have added and improved a number of buildings at the site.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

### J. R. Weldin Plantation Archaeological Site

New Castle County, Delaware

#### Statement of Significance

When Jacob died in 1892, his estate included "the machinery and other capital required to operate a large dairy farm" (Taylor et al. 1989: 208). Numerous items in his will, including silver utensils, marble table tops and other luxury goods, books, and a telescope, attest to an above-average lifestyle and some degree of learning.

His son, J. Atwood Weldin, seems to have continued his father's agricultural successes. A member of the local Tallyville Grange (Scharf 1888: 910), he is described as, "one of the most extensive dairy farmers in the Hundred" (Runk 1899: 501). By 1905, the property included a blacksmith/wheelwright shop, two tenant houses, and stables. By the time of his death in 1914, the dairy farm appears to have been thoroughly modernized (Taylor et al. 1989: 208). In his will, J. Atwood Weldin conveyed the property to his son, and the farm appears to have been in a state of decline when it was conveyed to a land development company in 1934.

Within the context of farmstead archaeology in Delaware, the Weldin Plantation Site (7NC-B-11) possesses a number of unique and exceptional features that make it eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D. The following sections will address criteria defined by De Cunzio and Garcia (1992: 299-301) as relevant to the determination of eligibility for historical archaeological sites in Delaware.

#### *Historical Documentation and Oral History*

As has been demonstrated by the Phase I report generated by Taylor et al. (1989), there is a great deal of documentary evidence concerning the site and its occupants. Deeds for the site show a clear chain of ownership back to the original survey in 1680. Most of the proprietors drafted wills providing at least partial descriptions of the property and their possessions (excepting Israel Peterson 1722-?). Fire Blotter Records from 1796 and 1803 provide a good description of the farmhouse and outbuildings during the property's period of tenancy. Census information from 1790 provides information on the household and possessions of one of the farm's tenants, William Little, who occupied the site as early as 1796, and as late as 1799. Tax assessments on Albanus Logan (husband of Maria Dickinson and co-owner of the property in the mid-nineteenth century) dating to 1837 and 1852 provide information on the size of the property and buildings. In addition, data from the Brandywine Hundred tax assessments (1849, 1852, 1861) and U.S. Agricultural Census of 1850 and 1860 provide information on the household, stock, and crop yields of John Bradford, tenant-occupant from 1849-1861. A Land Survey from 1743-1745 provides the metes and bounds of the property as originally surveyed in 1680. Historic Maps (Rea and Price 1849, Beers 1868 and Baist 1893) provide general information as to building location and general development of the area through time. In addition to these primary resources, Scharf (1888); Thompson (1984); Passmore (1975); and Runk (1899); and Talley (1899), provide personal/historical information on several of the site's owners.

The researchers were also able to make contact with Mr. Thomas Weldin, a family descendant who worked on the farm as a child in the 1920's and early 30's. Mr. Weldin has stated that he would be happy to relate his recollections of the property from that time period. There is therefore a high probability that an oral history of a period in the property's life can be created.

#### *Archaeological Integrity*

The site was occupied continuously from its first occupation in the early eighteenth century through its abandonment in 1934. There is some evidence of dateable, spatially discrete deposits (particularly later deposits), although Jacob R. Weldin and son appear to have engaged in a great deal of earth-moving during the mid to late nineteenth century. Some excavated contexts demonstrate mixing of artifacts dating from the mid eighteenth through the mid nineteenth century,



## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

### J. R. Weldin Plantation Archaeological Site

New Castle County, Delaware

#### Statement of Significance

Since only a small portion of the site has been sampled, the knowledge of the site assembled thus far is still fragmentary in this regard. The farmstead proper is large, and only a small portion has been sampled. There is potential for earlier, intact middens, privies and other features in the side and rear yards, as well as under Weldin Road. Future excavations should be geared towards revealing potential deposits, perhaps through mechanical stripping.

The physical integrity of the site is excellent. While the identification of the location of all of the early structures is incomplete at this stage, the remains of many structures dateable to (at least as early as) the mid-nineteenth century are visible at the ground surface. Preliminary excavations have also revealed evidence of post-constructed buildings in the rear yard, buried foundation remains of a separate room or building on the north side of the dwelling, and footings from possible porch features on the north and south side of the dwelling. The extant stone foundation walls to four buildings are evident on the surface. The corral walls and the bank (of the former bank barn) are extant. The site artifact assemblage thus far consists of 13,555 artifacts from the most recent excavations and an as yet undetermined number of artifacts from earlier excavations by Thunderbird, Inc. (No complete inventory was available at the time of this writing.) On the basis of the information collected during the excavations at the Weldin Plantation Site, it is clear that the site contains artifacts from all periods of occupation, as well as a wealth of faunal remains.

#### Representativeness

The site is located on an upland setting on the Piedmont Plateau Physiographic Province. The mapped soils are Talleyville silt loam, with 2-5% slopes, moderately eroded (TaB2), a well drained soil (Mathews and Lavoie 1970). The Weldin Plantation Site is an historic farmstead that may date to the early eighteenth century and was occupied until the mid-twentieth century. The site was identified previously and is discussed in greater detail in *Archeological Investigations of the Proposed Dualization of Route 141 (Centre Road), From Route 100 (Montchanin Road) to U.S. Route 202 (Concord Pike), New Castle County, Delaware*, Thunderbird Archeological Associates, Inc., 1989.

Because the site may date to the 1710s, it could have been occupied throughout each of the periods described in the *Management Plan for Delaware's Historic Archaeological Resources*. During the Exploration and Frontier Settlement Period, the *Management Plan* indicates that dispersed English farmsteads are located along the major creeks. Information relating to domestic economy, manufacturing and trade, landscape interaction, and social group identity, behavior, and interactions might be obtainable from excavations at this site.

The Intensified and Durable Occupation Period continues to provide a context for domestic economy for farmsteads that may have slaves or indentured servants. The evolution of the site throughout the Transformation from Colony to State, Industrialization and Capitalization, and Urbanization and Suburbanization Periods may allow a unique opportunity to compare the occupation of one site during the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries. The property was owner occupied at various times throughout its history and tenant occupied during other times. Comparison of different occupations, with presumed differences in economic status, may provide important data concerning socioeconomic patterns throughout the history of this site.

Farm use at Chestnut Hill varied through time. During its first seventy-five years of existence it was owner occupied. No historical data is available concerning farm produce from that era. However, it seems likely that the site followed known agricultural patterns and focused on market wheat production. During the farm's tenancy period, the property was almost certainly devoted principally to the raising of livestock, with perhaps some attention to dairy farming. The importance of dairy farming increased in the area towards the middle of the nineteenth century. The documentary evidence regarding

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

### J. R. Weldin Plantation Archaeological Site

New Castle County, Delaware

#### Statement of Significance

documentary and archaeological evidence (size, nature and layout of structures, dairy related ceramics, glass) demonstrate a shift towards dairy production in the mid-nineteenth century until the site's abandonment in the twentieth century.

#### *Research Questions and Needs*

##### (1) Landscape

The extant ruins of the Weldin Plantation Site can reveal a great deal about the arrangement of daily activities on a large nineteenth century dairy farm. Other farmsteads excavated in the region (cf. William Strickland Site [7K-A-117], Whitten Rd. Farm [7NC-D-100]. W. Eager Farm) have lacked the integrity of Weldin's structural remains and as a consequence have required more substantial field efforts to identify and map building locations and layout. Because the stone foundations of many of the structures at Weldin are still evident on the surface, such work is not necessary. The visible evidence provides us with a "key" to the activities carried out on the farmstead.

Aside from providing a base map for intra-site activity, the Weldin structures can also provide us with a sample of the layout of a large, apparently successful, owner-occupied farm that can be of value in discussing such properties on a regional level. Detailed data generated at the Weldin Plantation Site can be compared to that collected at other farmsteads to interpret differences and similarities of farm layout across spatial, temporal, and socioeconomic lines. Potential comparisons may be made to the William Strickland Site (7K-A-117); the Whitten Road Farm (7NC-D-100); the W. Eager Farm; The Grant Tenancy Site (7NC-B-6); and the Buchanan-Savin Farmstead, for example.

In addition to the known structural remains - most of which are associated with the mid-nineteenth through twentieth centuries - further excavations would certainly yield evidence of other, perhaps earlier, building remains. Evidence for one such building appears to have been identified on the north side of the extant dwelling remains, where buried foundation walls were discovered. Excavations near this wall, in the north yard (backyard of the dwelling) revealed the site's greatest number of early artifacts (plain white salt-glazed stoneware and scratch-blue; delft; early glass) and a notable lack of late-nineteenth century artifacts in the buried strata. Howard Weldin, a descendant of the site's owner-occupants from the mid-nineteenth through early twentieth centuries, also recalls that there was a stone-lined well in the field on the north side of Weldin Road. Considered together, this suggests that early architectural/landscape remains are likely to be found in the north yard, as well as under the existing Weldin Road.

The size of the buildings, their style (as much as can be determined from the remains), layout, materials, and construction methods, provide a wealth of information that can be interpreted with relation to the ideas, beliefs, and values of the site's most significant (and well-known) occupants, Jacob R. Weldin and his son, J. Atwood Weldin. As recent research has shown (Mascia 1996; Grettler 1991; Siders et al. 1991; Herman et al. 1989), middle nineteenth century architecture and farm layout indicates much about the ideology of a site's occupants. When considered in tandem with issues such as socioeconomic status, ethnicity, and other factors, the size of a site's buildings, their durability, style, and layout all take on added significance. The question is phrased more explicitly by De Cunzo and Catts (1990: 132):

How do socioeconomic status and aspirations, level of technological development, household economy, ethnicity and ideology, values and beliefs all influence the construction of domestic buildings and the use and improvement of the land? (132).

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

### J. R. Weldin Plantation Archaeological Site

### New Castle County, Delaware

### Statement of Significance

This research topic seems especially suited to the Weldin site, since both Jacob and his son Atwood invested so much in their farm's structures. It can be examined at a functional level (what are the functional attributes of massive, durable outbuildings, the choice of a bank barn etc.), and at an aesthetic level (the Weldin Plantation Road Entrance, wood-framing over the stone house, possible addition of porches, planting of trees, etc.).

To better answer questions as to why the Weldins "dressed" their farm as they did, it would be useful to examine the literature pertaining to progressive farming at this time. Information on the Weldins themselves, contained in Scharf (1888); Runk (1899); and Talley (1899) will also be vital to developing the type of personal details on the Weldins that will be necessary to address questions of ideology. Grettler's (1991) work on rural reform and its archaeological manifestations will provide important perspectives as well. Finally, historical analyses that deal with such topics as the economic and social implications of progressive farming in the region (cf. Michel 1985; Passmore et al. 1978; Passmore 1975) and the consideration of "elite" agricultural families in New Castle County, particularly in the late nineteenth century will provide excellent cross-disciplinary perspectives.

Again, the archaeological evidence and interpretation of ideologically motivated choices can be compared to that seen at other sites in the region, across temporal, socioeconomic and ethnic lines. If earlier structures can be positively identified at the site level at the Weldin Plantation, then the data these present can be compared with the mid- to late-nineteenth century architectural remains at the site to construct a better picture of the interplay of ideology and architecture at the site during earlier periods.

It should be noted that any discussion of ideology is highly interpretive. However, there appears to be adequate historical research to "reconstruct" a good picture of the Weldins as well as some of their predecessors at Chestnut Hill. Combined with archaeological evidence of architecture and farm layout, we believe that the Weldin Plantation possesses excellent potential for research on this theme.

### (2). Socioeconomic Phenomena

Because of the changes that occurred in the local agricultural economy during the period of time the Weldin Plantation Site was occupied, and because the farm was both tenant- and owner-occupied over the course of its history, the site presents a significant resource that may yield important archaeological data regarding the shift in the product focus of the farm over time, the changes in its relative emphasis on subsistence vs. market production, and the contrast between the household assemblages associated with its tenant occupants vs. those associated with resident owners. The farm's history appears to reflect the agricultural trends seen more generally in the region: initial (probable) emphasis on wheat production in the early to late eighteenth century under a resident owner, more generalized farm production during the years of its tenancy (1785-1862), followed by a shift during the Weldin family's ownership to large-scale dairying, which continued up to the first quarter of the twentieth century. This very closely parallels the pattern evidenced in northern Delaware as a whole (Bidwell and Falconer 1941; De Cunzio and Catts 1990; Munroe 1978).

As noted above, the historical record provides sufficient information to construct a fairly detailed view of the Weldins' farming activities and, to a lesser extent, those of the previous occupants of the farm (Scharf 1888; Runk 1899; Taylor et al. 1989). Although the Weldins' extensive construction activities have substantially disturbed some areas where the evidence of earlier buildings and other archaeological features might have been found, there are still several parts of the site that were unaffected by this work. In addition, because the orientation of the access road to the property changed over the time of its occupation, the orientation of the farm's structures is likely to have changed as well, increasing the likelihood that subsurface evidence of previous activities remains intact in areas the Weldins would have found logistically less advantageous. The identification of such features and the interpretation of their function should yield

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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J. R. Weldin Plantation Archaeological Site

New Castle County, Delaware

### Statement of Significance

information that would be of use in identifying the specific agricultural activities undertaken at the site, as well as shedding light on the domestic lives of the farm's residents over the years. This data, when considered in conjunction with the available textual records, should yield valuable information regarding the character of the lives of the residents of the farm during discrete periods, both before and during the Weldins' occupation.

De Cunzo and Garcia (1992) suggest that the comparison of households in an area with regard to their class status and role in the agricultural economy ("Large land-owning agriculturalists vs. tenants vs. small subsistence agriculturalists vs. small commercial, diversified agriculturalists, etc." [pg. 277]) represents an important avenue for historic archaeological research. The conclusions drawn from the analysis of the data collected at the Weldin Plantation Site will be ideal for use in such a higher-level study. Because the site promises to yield information relative to comparisons across a variety of dichotomous socioeconomic classifications, it should be of use in comparative studies that include other sites in the region across a fairly wide spectrum of site types and chronological periods.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
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**New Castle County, Delaware**

**Verbal Boundary Description and Justification**

The site is bounded on all four sides by agricultural fields. The boundaries were established through the excavation of shovel test pits at 20 foot intervals across the site. The site is approximately 350 feet north-south and 350 feet east-west (**Figure 1**). A scatter of historic artifacts associated with the site extends to the north of Weldin Road. The site is currently in secondary forest. Also associated with the site is an abandoned road originally leading to the site, which extends for approximately ¼ mile to the south of the site.



